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## Creatures of the Subnivean

Read this week's Naturally Yours on pages 2 and 3.

## The Twelve Days

Read this week's editorial on page 6.

Rhett Spooner belts out Christmas songs during the Stuart Baker holiday show on Dec. 20 at JDH school. All the classes from the priary school participated, along with a few classes from JDH. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

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# Naturally Yours

Barred Owls hunt for small mammals, even those living under the snow. /Photo by Carol Moffatt

Pictured are mice tracks with tail drag on a powdered snow surface. /RICK WHITTEKER Special to *County Life*

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# Creatures of the Subnivean

**RICK WHITTEKER**
Special to *County Life*

Most wildlife migrate, hibernate, or insulate to adapt to winter conditions. However, some small mammals choose a different path by remaining active all winter. Staying put makes sense when your legs are too short to head south and when growing extra fur is too cumbersome. Finally, with a body too small hibernate, small mammals find comfort and safety in the subnivean zone!

Subnivean is derived from Latin for sub (below) and nives (snow) and encompasses the area between the ground and the top of the snowpack. This specialized habitat provides animals like mice, screws, voles and red squirrels some protection from cold temperatures, biting winds and dangerous predators.

The subnivean zone is created in two ways. When snow falls, it can land on surfaces like stiff or dense plant matter, rocks, logs and bush piles and get hung up, creating snow free cavities used as living quarters for small mammals. Furthermore, the warmer ground heats up the snow particles, turning them into a vapour before they liquify, a process called sublimation. The vapour rises, contacts the cold snow surface above and crystalizes providing a thin, frozen layer like a stucco ceiling in this unique subnivean accommodation.

Fluffy snowfalls are 90 per cent air and ideal for maintaining a steady ground temperature. The air pockets don't allow the cold air to transfer down to the ground or heat to be released from below. Snow eventually changes shape from crystalline to more rounded and, at the same time, the pressure of gravity slowly increases the snow density. However, even when compacted, snow is more air than ice, retaining some of its insulation value. As the snow depth increases, this thick duvet of snow will keep the subnivean zone temperature at a relatively cozy zero degrees Celsius for most the winter.

For warm blooded animals, hibernation is great strategy which enables animals to conserve energy when food is scarce, however, with tunnels leading to different food sources like cached seeds, grasses and nuts, the need for some small mammals to hibernate is eliminated. All their habitat needs are met under the snow. For the carnivorous shrew, these underground tunnel networks give access to overwintering insects, larva and slugs in decomposing logs and under the leaf litter.

Various tunnel chambers are designated as dining and sleeping areas. After spring melt, you can trace the path of these tunnels and find food caches, soft bedding material and even a latrine - a very organized approach to the subnivean lifestyle! Tunnels sometimes lead to the base of deciduous trees, a food source for voles. Winter bark chews can girdle small trees, killing them by cutting off live sustaining water and nutrient flow from the roots.

With a keen eye, you may notice entry and exit holes in the snow, evidence of a busy life below. Scampering from one hole to the next, small track patterns leave evidence of nighttime sorties on the surface. These holes are necessary for coming and going but also act like an exhaust pipe, releasing the built-up carbon dioxide from decomposition and respiration, keeping it at a safe level for these down under denizens.

However, this specialized winter habitat isn't fool proof. Even with the sound muffling qualities of snow, winter predators have evolved the capacity to hear the

**see page 3**

Pine martins are known to hunt squirrels by first locating their midden piles.

County Life

**The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:**

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**Todd's Independent ***

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# Naturally Yours

**from page 2**

scurrying sounds of movement below the surface. Wolves, coyotes and foxes are able to pinpoint the location of small mammals under the snow. Plunging head-first, they use their long snouts to capture their prey.

Owls also have acute hearing and have been observed locating small mammals under snow from their perches 30 meters away! Silently flying down and knifing deep into the snowpack with their talons extended, it is a quick death to the unsuspecting small critter below. On your off-trail snowshoe rambles this winter, look for wing prints in the snow, a lingering imprint of these nighttime predators on the hunt.

Other carnivorous animals rely on different strategies to prey on small mammals in the winter. The diminutive ermine, or short-tailed weasel uses its lithe body to wiggle down these surface holes and root out a meal in the tunnels below. The larger pine marten has been known to hunt red squirrels by using the squirrel's cone bract midden piles and entry holes as cues to finding their prey.

Away from the snow packed trails we prefer, there is a busy world of activity taking place in a unique sub-snow ecosystem. The drama of the winter wildlife food web often plays out, unnoticed by us, under a cloak of darkness and a blanket of snow.

# Hardwiring kids

**DEBORAH J REED**

Special to *County Life*

I chatted by phone early this morning with my eldest daughter. Her own eldest was beginning that preteen trek towards orthodontics. In their youth, both my children and both my siblings also required the pulling of teeth to prep for braces. Me too. I remember it painfully well. Once my own 11-year-old gums had healed, I also faced tiny rubber bands, a pink palate expander, tight achy barbed wire, and shredded inner cheeks. *Plus*, I was required to document seven daily hours of almost two years of wearing specialized headgear which apparently helped my young mouth eventually accommodate tidy adult teeth.

It was all about the chew. A perfect fit. Aligned dentition. A confident smile. My overlapping incisors weren't acceptable. I had "malocclusion". Where only one molar should be, I grew two. I started hating them. I was imperfect and needed correction. My untidy grin was constantly being inspected. I hadn't been consulted.

I began to speak awkwardly through pursed lips. It looked to my pals like I'd succumbed to parental orders. I was the only kid on my street with braces. No more insanely delicious Dubble Bubble contests. No more smackable five-cent Mackintosh's toffee. Everyone knew when I'd just finished an apple. Broken wires meant panicky emergency detours to my orthodontist. I wouldn't laugh since Grade 8 was horrifying enough. I had to account to it, and not to my own soul. We all obliged ourselves to look exactly the same according to gender. Sitcoms and catalogues showed us the way. Anyone who dared break the mold was teased. And anyone who hated being teased never dared to look different.

But when I commiserated with my child this morning re. her child also needing braces, I was gently advised that there was no longer any peer shame around orthodontics. Braces now represent a smart investment in "adulting". They come in varying sizes, transparencies, treatment options and colours. They're more a valiant rite and privilege, a lucky opportunity to feel special, a badge of progress rather than giant "train tracks" condemning your already wretched face.

I do appreciate that I must continually adjust to how next generations see things. Braces are very cool these days, an intriguing "look", a socially-respectable act of faith. So are deliberately mismatched socks, nail colour on boys, and speaking up comfortably for oneself and for others. No shame. No bullying. No PTSD.

"Trepidation" was my awkward guess this morning at how my grandchild likely felt about her imminent dental journey. I was not at all accurate. In fact, I was calmly told on the phone that she was actually excited, honoured, openly proud, grateful, truly looking forward to it, and insistently included in every related discussion.

Despite some inevitable bad press, today's school-kids seem like promising mini-diplomats. "Growing up" is an arbitrary process through all history and culture. Generations deal with gaps in righteousness. It's finally my turn to look both deeply backwards and a tiny bit ahead. It's my prerogative to either adjust, or to judge with fear. It's in my best interest to sincerely consider younger perspectives. At best, kids will always review and tweak tradition.

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# Come sail away with Waite and Hagarty

**VIVIAN COLLINGS**
*County Life* Editor

Minden's Johnny Waite and Andrea Hagarty live and breathe adventure.

Last week, the couple shared one of the outcomes of their constant travel bug and transported Telling Our Stories Speaker Series guests to the other side of the world.

They replaced images of snowy pines and frozen lakes with towering palms and sandy beaches of the Philippines.

"We were there for four weeks traveling, had three weeks in the Philippines, two weeks in the Palawan Islands, one week on the 74' Paraw sailboat, and some extra adventures," Waite said.

While revisiting their March 2023 trip for the room full of enthralled listeners, it was clear that one main travel goal is at the root of their adventures: to be responsible and support local communities as much as possible.

Their sailing trip was through TAO Expeditions, a company in the Philippines that operates by working with local communities and individuals to offer their travel adventures.

"TAO has really helped reintroduce traditional culture into some of the more remote communities in the Palawan Islands," Waite said.

Wherever they go, they do everything possible to make sure they're contributing to the local economy of the place they visit through the food they eat, their accommodations, and transportation.

"In terms of this kind of adventure travel, the way that we are able to travel so often and be responsible while doing it is doing things like traveling light, staying in hostels, minimize tourist attractions. We find there's so much value in doing local things while traveling," Waite said.

They founded The Golden Age of Adventure, an experience planning company for those 40 years or older, after retiring from their respective jobs a few years ago.

"We're back now, but we're always doing something like this. In May, we have a group going to the Grand Canyon hiking from rim to rim," Waite said.

They had already taken three groups to the Dominican Republic in 2023 for hosting retreats, "to help people figure out what their adventure is going to be," Waite said.

"We're also planning on taking trips to Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and by the end of the year, we plan to take a group to climb Kilimanjaro in Africa."

More information on Waite and Hagarty's experience planning company can be found here: goldenageofadventure.com/about-us.

Andrea Hagarty and Johnny Waite are pictured in the Palawan Islands in the Philippines during their sailing adventure. /Photo submitted

## Upcoming for Telling Our Stories

Organized by the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, the speaker series has six upcoming presentations for 2024.

On Jan. 10, the Honourable Maryam Monsef will speak about her life before, during, and after her political career.

On Feb. 14, David Newland will perform stories and songs in a presentation called In Search of Lost Trees.

On March 13, Charlie Angus will discuss his book, Cobalt.

On April 10, local artists Ruth Walker, Sandi Luck, Wendy Wood, and Nadine Pape will share their artist residency experience on Halls Island.

On May 8, folk singer Ian Tamblyn will share adventure stories and songs.

To conclude this year's series, Ted Barris will be back on June 12 to speak about his new book, Fire Canoe.

All presentations are from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the HHOA Fish Hatchery in Haliburton. Admission is $15.

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## Community Events

**Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com**

### Super Cash Calendar Draws

When: Second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion
The Haliburton Lions Club super cash calendar draws will take place on the second Monday of every month from January until October. Three tickets pulled per night. First ticket winner receives $100, second ticket $200, and third ticket $500. Winners will be posted every month on www.haliburtonlions.com. Public is welcome to attend the draws at the Lions meetings in person.

### Contract Bridge

When: Every Tuesday, 9 a.m to noon
Where: Minden United Church basement, 21 Newcastle Street
Our weekly contract bridge has resumed and it's hoped that many of those who played before Covid will come back, along with new members. All levels of skill are welcome.

### Trappers Workshop

When: Sunday, Jan. 14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Lloyd Watson Community Centre, Wilberforce
Join the Minden District Fur Harvesters and numerous vendors for displays, demonstrations, competitions and door prizes throughout the day! Admission by donation. Lunch available. Food will also be collected for the local foodbank.. Everyone is welcome to attend. For further info please contact Ted at 705-448-2877.

**Concert fun**
Student from Mrs. Reeve's Senior Kindergarten/Grade 1 class watch their teacher for cues during their performance of the *Nutrcracker March* on Dec. 20. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

A young reindeer in Junior Kindergarten waves to a parent he spots in the crowd before their rendition of "If you can't wait for Christmas" on Dec. 20. /EMILY STONEHOUSE Staff

Elf hats were a must during the SBES concert on DEc. 20. The festive tunes got the large crowd into the holiday spirit.

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Send your letters to the editor to vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp. Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

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## The Twelve Days

**KATE BUTLER**
Special to *County Life*

After the exciting flurry of activity in the lead-up to Christmas, with all its shopping, cooking and preparing, there's also something rather lovely about the aftermath to the big day. It's a betwixt and between time that encourages nibbling at leftovers or perhaps making a pot of soup. It might be the perfect time to dive into that book you unwrapped under the tree, to watch a favourite movie or listen to music that you love. Maybe you'll hit the trails for a brisk walk to blow out the cobwebs and work up an appetite for more treats … or perhaps you'll prepare for more festivities!

Today, we might consider Christmas Day to be the culmination of the holiday season, but historically, people were just getting started! Today, we still talk about the Twelve Days of Christmas, but often think about them now as being the lead-up to Christmas Day, almost like an advent in miniature. In fact, Christmas Day is actually the first day of Christmas, with advent having historically been a time of fasting. The celebrations of the Twelve Days of Christmas, would last until Jan. 6, also known as Epiphany, which marked the arrival of the Magi, with the time between the Christmas Day and Epiphany being an ongoing celebration, during which each day had its own customs and traditions.

These days, we may think of Boxing Day as a day for snapping up deals, but originally it was associated with being a day off for servants. It was the day when they would receive their "Christmas Box" from their employer and would have the day to spend with their families after having spent Christmas Day working on their employers' celebrations. I have to admit that when I was very little, not realizing this, I came to the conclusion that the name must have come from the fact that it was the day to tidy up all the chaos that had been left around the Christmas tree the day before. Whether that happened or not was another matter!

In the celebrations of the Twelve Days of Christmas, Twelfth Night, otherwise known as Jan. 5, held a very special place on the calendar. Today, when we hear Twelfth Night, we might think of a Shakespearean play, but historically, it was a time for carols, feasting and merriment that involved turning social conventions upside down. While many of the Christmas traditions we enjoy today share strong links to a resurgence of interest in the holiday during the Victorian era, that was the time when Twelfth Night celebrations truly seemed to wane, at least in Britain. Queen Victoria, for all her love of Christmas, seemed to find the topsy-turvy celebrations that closed out the Twelve Days to just be a bit much, so she discouraged their celebration. In addition, the Industrial Revolution had changed the rhythm of the season, meaning that for many, the holiday break was shorter and no longer in tune with the agricultural calendar which had afforded the time in winter to pause for more extended celebrations.

Though I know that today, some people prefer to get things back to normal soon after Christmas, I'm personally a fan of extending the holiday season, so if you are too, don't forget that there's a historical precedent for it! Leave some decorations up if they're making you happy and if anyone asks you about them, feel free to let them know that the tradition used to be to leave them up all the way to Feb. 2, so this is still very early!

## Superman's Top 10 failed new year's resolutions

EVERYONE HAS New Year's resolutions, but they are always more interesting when they come from a public figure we know and love. And even more interesting still when those public figures let their resolutions go by the wayside. That's why I researched Superman's resolutions. Here are the top 10 he lets slide year after year:

**STEVE GALEA**
Humour Columnist

1. Trade the leotards for slacks after Thanksgiving.
2. Change in less public places.
3. For once, try not to look like a bird or a plane.
4. Leave the cape at home.
5. Quit making a big deal whenever someone bring out Kryptonite.
6. Less crime fighting. More journalism.
7. Maybe try glasses and a fake beard?
8. Remember, go easy on the high fives when meeting kids.
9. Just for fun, invert the pyramids.
10. Stop yelling, "Up! Up! And away!" every time someone has gas.

## Whispers

Ice, lacing the edge of the stream,
a jagged seam that zig-zags through the forest, cloaking the flow of water, below,
as I stand at the top of a slope of bald trees, peering through the spaces between their branches,
listening to whispers of the stream, breathe, the parts that aren't sealed by a membrane of ice,
feeling Air, bathe my face,
as I inhale the rawness of morning, traces of footsteps, fading in the Snow,
along the trail that trickles through the rows of trees, following the flow of the stream.
I brace my Breath, for the clamber down the slope, slapping the back of a boulder that bulges from the Snow,
the green fur of moss, that veils its shoulder, sealed in the thinnest skin of ice,
smooth and cool and slippery to touch,
small footsteps circling the boulder, accompanied by a larger pair, that meander their way down the slope,
as I follow the path of the bootprints, leaving their imprint in the Snow, for a stranger to find,
these invisible guides, that lead me through the forest, the small footsteps,
leaving staccato notes in the Snow,
filling the gaps between the large ones' stride.
I clomp at my own pace down the slope, slipping and sliding between the trees,
the whispers of the stream, growing louder, water, breathing, beneath the sheath of ice,
the footsteps, disappearing in the Snow, I wonder where did they go, as I reach the edge of the stream,
feeling tiny as a matchstick, amongst all these flagpoles of trees,
as I peer back up at the slope, at the pebble of the boulder,
the slope slanting on the other side, the jagged seam of the stream, tearing in parts, as I stare into the water,
and the pieces of stream that never sleep, like a heartbeat, its flow, slowing, like Breath, when it needs a rest,
footsteps fading in the Snow, fresh ones treading over them, following their path or forging their own,
as my feet lead me along the edge of the stream, the slopes of trees, protecting me from Wind,
as I inhale clumps of unsullied Air,
snowflakes beginning to fall, soft as whispers, melting into the stream,
seeping, deep, into the earth, beneath the forest floor,
feeding the secret spring that birthed its beginning.

*Sylvie Kalenda*

## HCSA says 'Safety First'

HCSA President,right, Neil Vanderstoop, thanks Steve Harper, left, owner of Harper Powersports and Marine, for supporting the acquisition of a new snowmobile to improve safety on HCSA's snowmobile trails. On Friday, Dec. 15, the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association (HCSA) purchased a new snowmobile from Minden's Harper Powersports and Marine for the upcoming season. The 2024 Ski Doo Skandic snowmobile has the capacity to carry two passengers and will be primarily used for urgent trail extractions in case of medical or other emergencies. Additionally, it will be used for trail maintenance and checking the readiness of the trails. The HCSA constructs and maintains 370 kilometers of snowmobiling trails throughout the county, most of which run through very remote areas. To ensure the safety of all users, it is crucial to have dependable equipment. And safety is their top priority. They also plan to use the new snowmobile to launch their new initiative - the Trail Ambassadors. The Trail Ambassador will be present on the trails to provide assistance, answer questions, promote proper trail usage, and ensure users' safety. HCSA extends a special thanks to Harper Powersports and Marine for their support in obtaining this new, critical equipment and is looking forward to the upcoming season. /BRITNEY PAGLIUCA Staff

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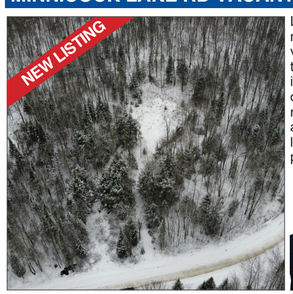


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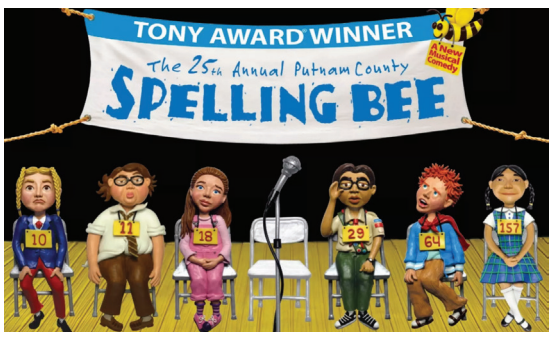
## July 2nd to July 11th




Sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal

Six awkward spelling champions learn that winning (and losing) isn't everything in this delightful musical An eclectic group of six mid-pubescents vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves a champion! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride, complete with audience participation, ***The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*** is a delightful hive of comedic and musical genius.

Opens July 2 through to July 11 for nine performances, including two matinees.

## July 15th to July 23rd

The Miracle Worker
by William Gibson

Twelve-year-old Helen Keller lived in a prison of silence and darkness. Deaf, blind, and mute from an illness as a baby, with no way to express herself or comprehend those around her, she flew into primal rages against anyone who tried to help her, fighting tooth and nail with a strength born of furious desperation.

Then Annie Sullivan came. Half-blind herself, but possessing an almost fanatical determination, she would begin a frightening and incredibly moving struggle to tame the wild girl no one could reach…Opens July 15 for eight performances including three matinees.

## July 24th to July 26th

Highlands Summer Festival is delighted to present ***The Good Lovelies***, a Canadian folk/country harmony trio, consisting of Caroline Brooks, Kerri Ough and Sue Passmore. At their core they can be described as a country/folk trio, with tinges of pop, roots, jazz and sometimes hip-hop mixed in.

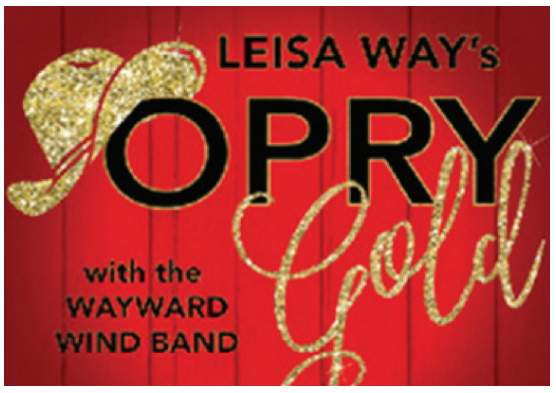
The group's three members, Brooks from Whitby, Ough from Port Hope and Passmore from Cobourg, were all performing as solo artists in the Toronto area when they came together in 2006 to perform at a Christmas concert at Toronto's Gladstone Hotel. The three subsequently decided to continue working together, releasing their debut EP, Oh My, in 2007. Since then, they have released nine LPs including the latest We Will Never Be The Same in 2023. In 2018, they performed at Massey Hall in Toronto and were nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award. The trio is on stage for three performances, July 24, 25 and a matinee 26.

## July 28th to August 2nd

Sarah, a turkey farmer, has split up with her husband and moved in with her mom, Gail, a beekeeper. Add in Earl, the flirty neighbour, and Ben, an eager young graduate student, and you have the perfect breeding ground for unlikely attractions. Set in adjoining bedrooms, ***The Birds and the Bees*** is a Canadian comedy about love, lust, beekeeping, and the artificial insemination of turkeys.

Six performances from July 28 to August 2.
*(**The Birds & The Bees** contains mature content and discussions of sex.)*

## August 4th to August 8th

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Reflections in the pond. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A male Downy Woodpecker. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

A squrrel cleans its paws. /Submitted by Tammy Nash

A chickadee gets ready to take flight. /Submitted by Jill Moulton

# Home Game

Muskies VS Haliburton County Huskies

Saturday, Jan. 6 - 4 p.m.

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Saturday, Jan. 20
4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 27
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# Legion Events

### Branch 129 Haliburton

**Mondays:** Bridge every Monday, 1 p.m. Schofield Rm.
**Tuesdays:** League darts starting at 7 p.m. Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30 to 9 p.m. (Sept to June)
**Wednesdays**: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. $500. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
**Thursdays**: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, starting at 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
**Fridays:** Meat draw has five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC.
Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards.
**Saturdays:** 50/50 Draw 4 p.m. draw – tickets are $1 each available in the Clubroom.
*Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, for more information call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Come on out and support Haliburton Legion Branch 129 ... everyone is welcome!*
Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m. and Sat. 3 to 6 p.m.

### Branch 636 Minden

**Lunch - Monday to Friday**
**Monday:** Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
**Tuesday:** Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
**Thursday:** Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
**Every other Friday:** Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
**Friday** Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
**Every other Friday** Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
**Saturday** All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
***Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.***

### Wilberforce

Jan. 4 - Open 2 to 6 p.m.
Jan. 5 - Open 2 to 9 p.m. Wings/Jam 5 to 8 p.m.
Jan. 6 - Open 2 to 6 p.m, Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Jan. 7, 8 – Closed
Jan. 9 - Closed - General Meeting 7 p.m.
Jan. 10 - Open 2 to 6 p.m. – Darts 2 p.m.

If you are planning an event our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.


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**August 25th** | 2:00 pm | NLPAP, Haliburton

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**POP GOES THE OPERA**
August 7th | 7:30pm

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August 10th | 7:30pm

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**HOS ALUMNI CONCERT**
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PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN EVENTS:

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THIS WEEK

**What can they say?**

*Ministry of Health officials say that public meeting isn't needed... See page 5*

EDITORIAL

**ASKING QUESTIONS**

*Newspapers and politicians share a New Year's goal... see page 6*

SPORTS

**Hockey Boot Camp**

*Players sharpoen their skills at special clinic at Haliburton arena...*

*See page 8*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1993

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY

# ECHO

*"The Voice of the Highlands Since 1882"*

Vol. 111, No. 50 • 22 pages • 65 Cents + GST = 70 Cents

# Farewell to 1993 recalls good times

by LINDA SHUTT
*Staff Reporter*

As the year wrapped up the Echo took to the streets to find out how 1993 rated in the lives of Highlanders.

We found a degree of optimism around the county that belies the gloomy unemployment figures, the burgeoning deficit and other signs that Canada has yet to work its way out of the recession.

Have people got used to less ? Are we setting our sights a little lower and finding pleasure in the simpler things in life ?

There was a little unfinished business – jobs around the house, unkept resolutions, a few things on the list of to-do's that would have to wait until next year. But, for whatever the reason, when we asked them how their year had been people were generally positive about 1993. Family, friends, jobs dominated their thoughts. Some are still worried about getting a job or keeping the one they have. But most said, yes, it had been a good year.

George Gibson and Robert Bonk were having a chat outside the Cardiff post office when the Echo caught up with them. For Gibson the one remaining item on his 1993 list was finishing the installation of a shower unit in his basement. "That'll be the last thing for this year." What about his plans for 1994 ? "Staying alive !" said Gibson with a laugh. He would like to take off to South Carolina and do a little golfing. Robert Bonk has everything wrapped up for the year – well, except for that deck that didn't get painted. Has it been a good year ? "Oh, I think so, yes."

*The highlight of 1993 for Stephanie Kuno was her son Thomas Nichol*

Nancy Farrell works behind the scenes. She's the cook at Lewis Stevens' Stop 35 restaurant on Highway 35 in Minden. She left the bacon sizzling on the griddle to talk about her year. The restaurant opened in the fall and Farrell started there on Day One. That's one of the reason's she rates 1993 "A good year." She didn't travel, which she'd like to do in 1994 "to the sunny south. Anywhere where it's hot," she said with a grimace at the snow falling steadily outside the window of the restaurant.

Down the highway at Petro Canada, Craig McKnight was pumping gas and wishing for better things. What didn't he do in 1993 he wished he'd done ? "Quit my job!"

Rushing out of the Minden post office, Minden resident Lisa Connelly paused for a few moments to contemplate 1993. It was a good one. Connelly was the driving force behind her village's hugely successful Canada Day celebration. There wasn't much she missed this year of the things she wanted to achieve. With a self-deprecating laugh she said "I guess I'm a good person! " Getting involved in her com-

Please turn to page 4

# County left at the altar

## First choice CAO candidate says no, again

by MARTHA PERKINS
*Editor*

After weeks of intense negotiations, the man who was offered the job as the county's chief administrative officer has said no to the job – for the second time.

But this time the courtship seems to be truly over.

Last Monday, Matthew Savino told the acting CAO, Ernie Hills, that he would not be accepting county council's offer as the county's top bureaucrat.

At the last county council meeting, councillors voted unanimously to hire Savino, a human resources manager with the County of Lanark. Savino had been offered the job before but he turned it down, prompting council to get into another round of negotiations with him.

This latest agreement was provisional on a few last contract details being ironed out. The county's personnel committee met with Savino and voted to recommend to full council that the contract be signed. Before they could reach that point, however, Savino phoned to say that after talking with his family he wouldn't accept the job.

"I still can't get over this one," says Warden Jim McMahon after he heard the news. Asked what council would do next, he said "I wish I knew."

He says council's second choice for the job was asking for too much money, so McMahon's going to ask council to consider hiring a clerk-treasurer instead. (A clerk-treasurer would be less expensive, and would simply be involved in the nuts and bolts of county functions and accounting. A CAO would have a wider administrative role, overseeing all the various departments.)

"Some people think you get monkeys with peanuts," McMahon said, but in this economy he wonders if the county can afford a CAO. His comment reflects the saying that if you're going to pay people peanuts, don't be surprised if you get a few monkeys.

He says the county needs someone with strong accounting and computer skills.

McMahon was at the personnel committee meeting with Savino. The warden says he was concerned that the proposed contract "seemed to be protecting (Savino) 100 percent and nothing for the county."

For instance, Savino was being offered a three-year contract with the guarantee that if at the end of the second year council wanted to terminate Savino's employment, he would still be paid for the third year. "We had to get that spelt out of him," says McMahon, although eventually that did remain as part of the agreement.

In essence, if Savino was going to pay the costs of uprooting his home and family, he wanted some sort of job guarantee. McMahon says that in turning down the job, Savino told them that he had decided not to make the move when he was so close to retiring from the municipal field.

When contacted by the Echo, Savino did not want to publicly comment on his reason for turning down the job twice. "My views were personal," he said last week. "Whatever decisions I made are best left in camera...

"It's a very nice place. Anything other than that stays within my personal assessments."

Council will next be meeting on January 5.

# Minden gets go-ahead on housing

by MARTHA PERKINS
*Editor*

A few days before Christmas, the Staanworth housing corporation got the best present ever – some good news.

Last week, the province announced it was giving approval for 40 non-profit housing units, to be built under the jobsOntario program. This is part of a province-wide project to build 2,800 units.

"We're pretty happy to see it," says Jerry Rome, chairman of the corporation which lobbies for affordable housing for the residents of Stanhope, Anson, Hindon and Minden and Lutterworth townships.

"I think we're due for some good news."

Staanworth has been proposing the units for the past three years, and already has permission from AHM council to build the apartments across from the present Staanworth facilities (next door to the community centre in Minden.)

Although details have yet to be worked out, the plan is to build 20 regular units and 20 supportive housing units. Supportive housing is a good idea whose time has come in the Highlands. It's for seniors and people with disabilities who need help in maintaining their independence, but who aren't quite ready to move into a senior citizens home such as Hyland Crest.

"These people still have a certain amount of independence but some need a little bit of help and they need to know it's there," says Rome.

For instance, the residents who moved into the first Staanworth facility in 1984 are also nine years older, and their needs have changed. They might not need round-the-clock nursing care available, but maybe they need a room in the building where a nurse could come and visit every few day. Another suggestion is having a common dining area,

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**Remember 1993 ?**

What was the temperature in Haliburton on February 27 ? Which famous composer came to Haliburton Forest last summer ? What did Creighton Feir see on a Haliburton street in March that pleased him so ? Who quit in May ? And September ? How much did the Wace Report cost ? What was the Wace Report ? Privies and the Ministry of Natural Resources. What's the scoop ? What was the vote count for the new warden ?

The answers to these, and other scintillating questions on the outgoing year can be found on page 13, 14 and 15 as the *Echo* takes a look back at 1993.

CHRISTMAS GIVING: Tiffini Cowan, 14, got into the spirit of the season by donating some of her babysitting earnings to Kinark Child and Family Services in Haliburton. Program director John Penn accepted the donation, which will be used for children's books and toys for the centre's play room.

# HHSS student thinks of the less fortunate at Christmas

by LINDA SHUTT
*Staff Reporter*

Around Christmas time a lot of kids are thinking about what THEY want. So it was a little unusual to come across Tiffini Cowan, 14, who decided to donate a goodly portion of her babysitting earnings to a needy cause just before Christmas.

"I feel a lot of people aren't getting enough (help)," said Cowan after she gave $50 to Kinark Child and Family Services in Haliburton.

Cowan said she felt fortunate to come from a family that would find much of what it wanted under the tree on Christmas morning.

So she welcomed the chance to share some of her good fortune.

Cowan, a Grade 9 student at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School, heard a Toronto talk radio show last week that gave her the inspiration to make a sacrifice to help others.

The radio station matched donors with needy families and one story in particular caught Cowan's attention.

A young boy answered the telephone when the radio station called to tell his single mother the family would receive $210 from a donor for Christmas. She had been laid off work and a shortage of money had forced her to delay her family's Christmas celebrations until March.

But when her son was told of the donation he asked the radio station to send them just $150 and give the other $100 to his dad, who didn't have a winter coat.

"I thought it was really great,"

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We hope this holiday season brings you moments of joy, reflection, and quality time with loved ones.

From our home to yours, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!

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